

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02
DEAE-00 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 AID-05 H-01 OMB-01 ABF-01
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R 181005Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9907
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, NL
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTER PRONK ON
NETHERLANDS CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC

1. CONGRESSMAN JAMES SCHEUER AND AMBASSADOR MET BRIEFLY
FEBRUARY 16 WITH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTER PRONK
IN AN EFFORT TO ENLIST PRONK'S SUPPORT FOR A POSITIVE DECISION
BY THE GON TO MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC. MR.
SCHEUER'S PRESENTATION EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING
UNFDAC A MORE MEANINGFUL INSTRUMENT IN COMBATING THE SOURCES
OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. POINTING
OUT THAT TRULY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES LIKE THE NETHERLANDS AND
THE US FACE AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING
AND USE OF HARD DRUGS BECAUSE OF OUR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL
GUARANTEES OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, MR. SCHEUER SOUGHT TO FOCUS
PRONK'S ATTENTION ON THE NEED FOR COMBAT AT THE SOURCE. UNLESS
IT WERE PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE TO HERMETICALLY SEAL THE BORDERS OF
OUR COUNTRIES, NO AMOUNT OF POLICE OR OTHER LEGAL ENFORCEMENT
WOULD PROVE ADEQUATE TO THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.
TO ILLUSTRATE HE MENTIONED SEVERAL OF THE MORE SURREPTITIOUS
MEANS BY WHICH HARD DRUGS ARE ILLEGALLY BROUGHT INTO COUNTRIES
WHERE THE PROFITS ARE SO ATTRACTIVE FOR TRAFFICKERS AND THE
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DRUGS SO ATTRACTIVE TO POTENTIAL NEW USERS. WITH THE BEST WILL
IN THE WORLD GOVERNMENTS SIMPLY COULD NOT CREATE THE FAIL-SAFES
TO ELIMINATE THE DRUGS THEMSELVES OR CONTROL THE ADDICTION
PROBLEM.

2. ARGUING THAT IF UNFDAC DID NOT EXIST SOMETHING LIKE IT WOULD
HAVE TO BE CREATED, MR. SCHEUER SAID THAT MANY OF THE DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY INCAPABLE OF HALTING POPPY CULTIVATION WERE NOW YEARNING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIMINATE IT. UNFDAC WAS THE VEHICLE, HE SAID, THAT MADE THE MOST SENSE TO UTILIZE BUT IT WOULD NOT PROVE MEANINGFUL UNLESS GOVERNMENTS - PARTICULARLY THOSE LIKE THE GON WITH NARCOTICS PROBLEMS - PROVIDED UNFDAC WITH SOME WHEREWITHAL. THE US, HE SAID, HAS CONTRIBUTED SOME \$18 MILLION OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS - ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF UNFDAC'S TOTAL FUNDING - BUT IT WAS NOT IN ANYONE'S INTEREST IF UNFDAC WERE PERCEIVED AS HAVING A MADE-IN-AMERICA IMAGE. THE MORE WHO CONTRIBUTED, THE MORE UNFDAC WOULD BECOME AND WOULD BE VIEWED AS BEING A TRULY MULTILATERAL EFFORT.

3. APPLAUDING THE DUTCH FOR THEIR PRESENT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND IN PARTICULAR FOR A RECENT MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT THAT INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA AND HASHISH, MR. SHEUER NOTED THAT, IRONICALLY, THIS EFFORT - WHICH HAS SERIOUS ADVOCATES IN THE US - MAY OUTRAGE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES WHERE HASHISH, NOT HEROIN, IS THE SERIOUS DRUG OF ABUSE.

4. PRONK, WHO LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, DISCLAIMED ANY EXPERIENCE OR PARTICULAR KNOWLEDGE OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM PER SE, BUT DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE GON WAS NOW GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AT CABINET LEVEL TO A REQUEST FROM J.G. DE BEUS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFDAC, FOR A CONTRIBUTION. WHILE THE ULTIMATE DECISION WOULD NOT BE HIS, PRONK SAID HIS PROBLEM IS BEING ASSURED THAT UNFDAC CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD INDEED BE USED FOR GENUINE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, SAYING THAT MONEY USED FROM HIS BUDGET COULD ONLY BE JUSTIFIED IN SUCH A WAY. MR. SCHEUER SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THIS WOULD INDEED BE THE CASE WHETHER FUNDS WERE APPLIED FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION OR FOR THE FINANCING OF OTHER "INTER-MEDIATE TECHNOLOGY" MANUFACTURING SCHEMES AND THAT UNFDAC PRESENTLY HAD PEOPLE WITH SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE TO JUSTIFY NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS. INDEED, HE ADDED THAT EXPERTS HAD ALREADY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DEVELOPING NATION GOVERNMENTS. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OF SOME ADVANTAGE, MR SCHEUER CONTINUED, IF A SPECIAL NARCOTICS UNIT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER UNDP AND NOT AS AN INDEPENDENT SPECIALIZED AGENCY SUCH AS UNFDAC, SO THAT QUESTIONS SUCH AS MR. PRONK'S WOULD NOT ARISE. HOWEVER, UNFDAC IS THERE AND OUGHT TO BE UTILIZED BUT WON'T BE EFFECTIVELY UNLESS IT HAS MORE MONEY TO WORK WITH, AND IS VIEWED AS A CREDIBLE UN AGENCY AND NOT AS A CREATURE OF THE US.

5. PRONK, WHO HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO MEET ON SHORT NOTICE, PROVED SURPRISINGLY POSITIVE. HE SAID THAT HE LISTENED TO THE CONGREGEEEMAN'S "APPEAL", REPEATED THAT THE QUESTION FOR THE GON WAS ONE BOTH OF CABINET AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST, THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING "WITHIN A FEW WEEKS" AND

THAT THE GENERAL ATTITUDE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WAS "MORE POSITIVE THAN IT HAD BEEN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS."

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE H PROVIDING COPY DIRECTLY TO CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER. PLEASE TELL HIM ALSO THAT HIS PERSONAL LETTER TO PRONK HAS BEEN DELIVERED.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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